

THE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After extensive research and review, the American School Counselor Association announces the establishment of The National Standards for School Counseling Programs. National standards:

- help school systems identify what students will know and be able to do as a result of participating in a school counseling program;
- establish similar goals, expectations, support systems and experiences for all students;
- service as an organizational tool to identify and prioritize the elements of an effective school counseling program; and,
- provide an opportunity to discuss the role of counseling programs in school to enhance student learning.

WHY SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS?

The purpose of a counseling program in a school setting is to promote and enhance the learning process. The goal of the program is to enable all students to achieve success in school and to develop into contributing members of our society. A school counseling program based upon national standards provides all of the necessary elements for students to achieve success in school. This programmatic approach helps school counselors to:

- continuously assess their students' needs;
- identify the barriers and obstacles that may be hindering student success; and
- advocate for programmatic efforts to eliminate these barriers.

School success requires that students make successful transitions and acquire the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that are essential to the competitive workplace of the 21st century.

WHAT ARE THE NATIONAL STANDARDS?

The National Standards for School Counseling Programs facilitate student development in three board areas:

Academic Development
Career Development
Personal/Social Development

The standards provide the guidance, direction and the framework for states, school systems and individual schools to develop effective school counseling programs. There are three standards for academic development, career development and personal/social development. These nine standards are followed by a list of student competencies or desired student learning outcomes. These define the specific knowledge, attitudes and skills which students should obtain or demonstrate as a result of participating in a school counseling program. These competencies form a foundation which can be used as a basis to develop measurable indicators of student performance.

Academic Development

The academic standards serve as a guide for the school counseling program to implement strategies and activities that support and maximize student learning. Academic development includes:

- acquiring skills, attitudes, and knowledge to learn effectively;
 - employing strategies to achieve success in school; and
 - understanding the relationship of academics to the world of work, and to life at home and in the community.
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Career Development

Program standards for career development service as a guide for the school counseling program to provide the foundation for acquiring the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that enable students to make a successful transition from school to the world of work. Career development includes:

- strategies to achieve future career success and job satisfaction;
- fostering an understanding of the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work; and,
- the development of career goals by all students as a result of career awareness and experiential activities.

Personal/Social Development

Program standards for personal/social development serve as a guide for the school counseling program to provide the foundation for personal and social growth which contributes to academic and career success. Personal/social development includes:

- the acquisition of skills, attitudes, and knowledge which helps students to respect self and others;
- the use of effective interpersonal skills;
- the employment of safety and survival skills;
- understanding the obligation to be a contributing members of our society; and,
- the ability to negotiate successfully and safely in the increasingly complex and diverse world of the 21st century.

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Academic Development

Standard A. Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills, that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.

Standard B Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college.

Standard C. Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work, and to life at home and in the community.

Career Development

Standard A. Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decision.

Standard B. Students will employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction.

Standard C. Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work.

Personal/Social Development

Standard A. Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

Standard B Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Standard C. Students will understand safety and survival skills.